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President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) ..... (Republic of Korea)

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Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

Opening statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council

1. **The President** said that the theme of the meeting was "The political meaning of the World Social Summit in the contemporary world". The World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995 and attended by over 14,000 participants, including delegates from 186 countries and some 810 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), had been one of the largest summits in history. At that Summit, known as the Social Summit, Member States had adopted a new social contract at the global level — the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action — which put people at the centre of development and was still one of the most comprehensive and inclusive action plans for achieving social development.

2. Building upon a series of world summits and international conferences held in the 1990s on issues requiring global solidarity, such as human rights, the environment and food security, Member States had adopted the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, with a view to translating those shared visions into goals with concrete targets. The Social Summit had been one of the major building blocks in establishing the Millennium Development Goals, and the integrated approach it advocated had contributed to the common understanding of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the need for their balanced integration. Over the past 20 years, Member States had learned that economic and social development and the well-being of all people and the planet were interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The Economic and Social Council was mandated to identify emerging challenges, to promote reflection, debate and innovative thinking, and to achieve a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

3. The Council was committed to carrying out that work in 2015 and beyond, keeping the lessons of the pioneers of social development in mind. On the eve of the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Social Summit was an opportunity to reflect upon the origins of the United Nations development agenda.

Keynote addresses

4. **The Deputy Secretary-General** said that the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development was an opportunity for reflection on progress and experiences to date, as well as on remaining challenges and the road ahead. Twenty years ago at the Summit in Copenhagen — the largest-ever gathering of world leaders at the time — an important conceptual consensus had been reached. That consensus had helped to shape the development pathway to the present day.

5. At the Summit, it had been agreed that the human being must be placed at the centre of development efforts in the spirit of the first three words of the Charter of the United Nations, "We the peoples". Member States had pledged to make the conquest of poverty, the goal of full employment and the fostering of social integration the overriding objectives of development. Those objectives set in Copenhagen in 1995 had deep roots in decades of thinking on how to effectively integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development to ensure not only sustainable growth, but also dignity and justice for all. He recalled lively discussions on that topic in the early 1990s with his friend and colleague Juan Somavía, a driving and creative force behind the Summit who would speak to the Council later in the meeting.

6. Poverty eradication, employment and social integration were still basic requirements if people were to live their lives in security and dignity, and in full exercise of their human rights. Those elements had been clearly and loudly echoed in 2012 and in efforts since then to shape a transformative post-2015 development agenda.

7. He said that 2015 was a milestone for the United Nations — a year of global action for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. Member States should look at what had been achieved to date and what remained to be done in promoting social progress, inclusion and social justice. Progress had been made. A smaller proportion of the world's people now lived in extreme poverty than 15 years ago. More people lived

longer and healthier lives. The world had seen important advances in health and education.

8. Yet, more than a billion people still lived in extreme poverty. Inequality tended to be systemic and was in many cases widening to an alarming degree. Economic opportunities for women and girls were lacking in far too many places. Environmental degradation and climate change threatened the basis of healthy lives and even the very survival of the species. Humankind certainly did not live in peace and harmony with nature, endangering the lives of future generations.

9. Unemployment remained high — and, not least, the world's youth were bearing the brunt. Globally, as many as 73 million young people were looking for jobs. Young people were three times more likely than adults to be unemployed. Many more were trapped in jobs where they were objects of exploitation. When young people felt frustration and anger at a glaring lack of opportunity, they were more likely to lose faith in government and in institutions. In many parts of the world, that left young people receptive and vulnerable to marginalization and radicalization. Related to that lack of opportunity was the current alarming growth in extremism. The principle and practice of social integration and the peaceful coexistence of cultures and communities were increasingly under threat in the contemporary world.

10. Delegates at the World Summit for Social Development 20 years ago had affirmed that poverty eradication, full employment and social integration were closely interlinked. That rang even more relevant and true in the contemporary world. That was why a new set of sustainable development goals which were universal, people-centred and cross-cutting in nature were needed.

11. As everyone knew, after the Sendai Conference in Japan in March, three major international decision-making processes stood before the United Nations in 2015: the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in Addis Ababa, in July; the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in New York, in September; and the United Nations Climate Change Conference, in Paris, in December. As had been the case with the development conferences of the 1990s, the outcomes of those key meetings would affect global political, economic, social and environmental priorities and policies for many, many years to come. Those processes must complement and support each other. People's needs, rights and aspirations were the glue that should bind together all development efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels.

12. In Copenhagen in 1995, the critical importance of adopting an integrated approach to development had been highlighted and Member States had been encouraged to be mindful of the interaction between the agreements reached and reminded of the impact of those interactions on people's ability to live meaningful, secure and dignified lives. The year 2015 presented an historic test and challenge for the international community and national institutions embarking on a voyage of transformative change that would affect all sectors of society. That change must be built on universality, sustainability and acceptance of interdependence as a win-win proposition for both nations and people. The experience of the past two decades — and, in particular, the years of the Millennium Development Goals — had shown the potential of a true global pact for development. As the international community strengthened and reinforced its combined commitment to achieve a life of dignity for all, the lessons of the past should be used to ensure a better future for all. No one must be left behind on that common voyage.

13. **Mr. Frei** (former President of Chile) said that, as President of Chile, he had attended the Social Summit in 1995, which had been the brainchild of his predecessor, Patricio Aylwin, and a valuable contribution by his country to the common good. Another Chilean, Ambassador and former ILO Director-General Juan Somavía, had served as Chair of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit. In 1995, Chile had just begun to consolidate its democracy and re-establish contacts with the rest of the world. The Summit had been a way to repay the solidarity the international community had shown the Chilean people during the dictatorship.

14. His country was no stranger to the recalcitrant and difficult problem of poverty, and had experience in drastically reducing poverty levels. The issues addressed at the Social Summit had been areas of particular interest to his Government and, throughout his political career, he had advocated a political order that combined democracy and social justice. At the Summit, he had called on participants to reach a new ethical and moral consensus, based on a spirit of

cooperation and equality, on the development model to follow. That invitation remained open.

15. The Social Summit had been the largest-ever gathering of world leaders in history, where the broadest and most inclusive agreement on social development had been signed, in response to a global economic model that had forgotten people. The Social Summit had marked the first global reaction to the dominance of neoliberalism and put people at the centre of the global agenda. The Washington Consensus had run its course and many people had been starting to rethink the concept of development, based on the transformation of production structures in a context of growing social equality.

16. It had been evident from various indicators that serious imbalances, namely poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, which affected a considerable number of countries, must be redressed urgently. The Social Summit had been a response to those concerns and the first step to promoting an economic model that could create greater equality, social cohesion and respect for human dignity and the environment. That model had aimed not only to improve economic performance, but also to promote greater social efficiency and safeguard citizens' rights.

17. The Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development was a true reflection of those intentions. Governments had been urged to adopt credible public policies to tackle poverty, the lack of productive employment and social disintegration, as they would only be seen to be trustworthy if citizens' needs were prioritized. Social development required public policies that corrected market failures, complemented trade mechanisms, maintained social stability and created an economic environment conducive to sustainable growth — one that promoted equality, social justice, tolerance, responsibility and the participation of all citizens.

18. Member States must now ask themselves whether they had given expression to the Programme of Action in their economic and social policies. His country had significantly reduced incidences of poverty and extreme poverty by boosting economic growth, maintaining rigorous fiscal management and significantly increasing public investment in the poorest sectors through well-designed and properly targeted social programmes. However, the task was far from accomplished. The current Government was promoting a series of initiatives, including tax and education reforms, to reduce social inequalities. While Latin America was the region that had seen the biggest reduction in poverty and inequality, it also remained the most unequal. Indeed, 10 of the 15 countries in the world where inequality was most pronounced were in Latin America, and 28 per cent of Latin Americans lived in poverty, the same number as before the 2008 global financial crisis. Governments had failed to use the revenues generated by the recent commodities boom and influx of foreign capital to strengthen social protection policies that could reduce vulnerability to economic cycles.

19. In order to create healthy, fair, ethical and cohesive societies, progress must be accompanied by a redistribution policy. A new fiscal pact was needed, with a tax reform that went to the heart of the problem and would improve the distribution of income. Without such reform, growth could not ensure the well-being of the whole population. Reducing poverty and reducing inequality were not one and the same; neither were development and economic growth. Achieving a balance was one of the greatest challenges facing the region.

20. Citizens were more politically aware than they had been 20 years ago. In addition to poverty, other factors, such as abuses by big business, tax evasion and corruption, were fomenting and perpetuating social inequalities and vulnerabilities. The values and objectives of the Copenhagen Summit remained pertinent. While real progress had been made, much remained to be done to achieve satisfactory levels of equitable growth that would allow governments to regain the trust of their citizens. The fight against poverty and inequality would require ethical and moral sustenance. Calls for action would grow louder and louder unless governments had the capacity and political will to eradicate injustice.

Panel discussion: "Impact of the World Social Summit on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda"

21. **Ms. Miculescu** (Romania), moderator, said that the panel discussion would offer an opportunity to reflect upon social development, which was a crucial element of sustainable development. Twenty years ago, nations had gathered in Copenhagen to recognize the significance of social development. The resulting Declaration and Programme of Action, based on earlier

agreements, were the broadest-ever set of norms and explicit commitments to guide action on social development at the national, regional and international levels. However, 20 years later, those commitments to eradicate poverty, promote full employment and foster social integration, based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights, remained relevant because they had not been fulfilled, despite progress in some areas.

22. In the run-up to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015, Member States should build on the outcome documents of the Social Summit when considering the importance of social development within the paradigm of sustainable development.

23. **Mr. Donoghue** (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations), panellist, said that, as Member States prepared for the final stages of the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the current discussion was an opportune moment for reflection. As co-facilitator of the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, he noted that it was a very challenging time, but also a moment of great opportunity and responsibility, as Member States neared the culmination of their work on financing for development and the post-2015 development agenda.

24. For the past 20 years, the outcome of the Social Summit had greatly influenced the social development agenda and had been critical to the work leading to the upcoming summit on the post-2015 development agenda. Many of the objectives of the Social Summit had inspired the Millennium Development Goals, notably the Goals to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty, promote gender parity in access to primary education and ensure full and productive employment. The 2002 Monterrey Consensus, with its focus on addressing some of the structural barriers to human development, was also part of the legacy of the Social Summit.

25. Twenty years after the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration, and 15 years after the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, progress had been made in many areas, including combating malaria and HIV/AIDS and increasing access to clean drinking water. Still, the fact that over one in five people in developing countries continued to live in extreme poverty and the high levels of youth unemployment revealed the enormous challenges countries faced in realizing the objectives set out in Copenhagen. The Millennium Development Goals had not fully addressed all of those objectives. The progress on gender equality under the Millennium Development Goals had not been sufficiently transformative. The focus on aggregate progress had distorted results and overlooked the situation of the most vulnerable people in society. The absence of ambitious economic and governance goals meant that some of the fundamental prerequisites for social development had not been addressed. The overall approach of the Millennium Development Goals, which had inadvertently promoted silos over integration and single issues over broader methods, meant that the Goals had often addressed the symptoms rather than the root causes of poverty and inequality. The resources and means needed to implement the Millennium Development Goals had also not been addressed in detail early enough in the process.

26. With just four months until the summit in New York and the adoption of the new post-2015 development agenda, it was clear from the zero draft of the agenda, which had been circulated recently, that it embodied many of the objectives set out at the Social Summit and sought to learn from the past. The zero draft presented an integrated sustainable development agenda that would be universally applicable and emphasized national ownership and differentiation. It focused on ending poverty and hunger, but also included a strong commitment to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, by emphasizing that access to basic services should be universal, no one should be left behind and data should be disaggregated. The new sustainable development goals addressed traditional social development issues, such as food and nutrition security, education, water and sanitation, and health, and sought to integrate the social, environmental and economic dimensions of development across all 17 goals. Recognizing the need to address the root causes of the world's social, economic and environmental problems, a number of the proposed goals focused on issues such as gender equality, peaceful societies, sustainable consumption and production, and inequalities between and within States.

27. The proposed new goals and targets were very ambitious; however, that ambition was commensurate with the changes needed to end poverty in a generation, combat inequalities, promote shared

prosperity and universal peace, and protect and preserve the planet. A comprehensive approach was needed to address all of those challenges to humanity; the goals and targets reflected that. He hoped that it would be possible to maintain that level of ambition and imagination until the end of the negotiation process. As Member States entered the final stages of the negotiations, set in motion by the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the main focus would be on adopting an overarching declaration to accompany the sustainable development goals and targets, which captured the ambition and the transformative nature of the agenda in a manner that was easily understood by the general public and inspiring to all.

28 With regard to the means of implementation, some 60 targets had already been agreed, but success would depend on whether the Addis Ababa Conference could produce an ambitious and overarching development financing framework to complement those targets and to mobilize the resources and technology needed to achieve sustainable development. Lastly, a follow-up and review framework would have to be devised. Member States generally agreed that it would be necessary to maximize the effectiveness and coherence of existing oversight architecture, including the Council, the General Assembly and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Functional commissions would, no doubt, also play a role.

29. There was a lot of work ahead, but negotiations were scheduled to be successfully concluded by 31 July 2015. Everyone hoped that the resulting agenda would capture the spirit of the Social Summit and help to transform the world over the next 15 years.

30. **Mr. Somavía** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation), panellist, who had served as Chair of both the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Social Development and the Main Committee of the Summit, said that the work undertaken since 2012 on "The future we want" and the post-2015 development agenda had recaptured some of the spirit and political dynamism of the summits and conferences of the 1990s, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit), the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Social Summit. The outcome documents of those conferences and summits had set out the concepts of sustainable development, based on three interrelated pillars, and had required Member States to examine the underlying root causes and structural issues behind poverty and inequality. More importantly, the Social Summit had put people back at the heart of development.

31. The supremely ambitious vision contained in the zero draft of the post-2015 development agenda was a sound basis for negotiations and represented the first integrated sustainable development agenda. With 17 goals and 169 indicators, it went far beyond the Millennium Development Goals, which, unlike the outcome documents of the 1990s summits, had not been universal or targeted structural issues. The political will to move ahead on those fundamental issues was now in place.

32. The integration of the three pillars of sustainable development had been discussed for many years, but it had not been achieved. While it was a desirable goal, it was likely that many Member States, not just least developed countries, would turn to the United Nations for assistance to implement the new sustainable development goals, for which the Organization would require additional resources. While the United Nations certainly had the capacity and expertise for integrated thinking, it had not yet identified all the interactions and interrelationships between environmental, social and economic considerations. Once it did identify how to integrate the three pillars, the Organization must explain the method clearly; otherwise stakeholders would continue to implement the same sectoral approach as in the past.

33. The United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, regional commissions, and the multiple networks of external experts should work together to make the integration of the three pillars of development possible. The knowledge was there and it was to be hoped that the impetus would come from the post-2015 development agenda and the declaration that would be adopted at the New York summit. The integration process should be launched as soon as possible, as it would take some time and promised to be very complex. The Council and the General Assembly should provide oversight. Integration of the economic, social and environmental elements of development would require a clear understanding of the need to balance the markets, the State, society and the individual.

34. Since the Earth Summit and the Social Summit, the global economy had continued to grow and become

even more integrated, with all the advantages and disadvantages that stemmed from globalization. Failure to integrate the economic, social and environmental aspects of development would be regrettable; national policies must not continue to focus on the economy to the detriment of social and environmental considerations. The road ahead would be difficult, especially as there were many interests in the world that would like to see the status quo continue and would warn against interfering with existing economic policies.

35. According to a survey that spanned the period 1995-2014, confidence and trust in the United Nations had decreased significantly in recent years. The manner in which the sustainable development goals and objectives were presented to the general public would therefore be crucial. Citing paragraph 23 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, he said that citizens' waning trust in — and increasing sentiment of distance from — the world's governance systems and the United Nations must be acknowledged and addressed. The regional commissions offered a link between global and local considerations. The Council should ensure that the United Nations system utilized the regional commissions to translate the global agenda into national and regional policies.

36. People were calling for a more representative and participatory democracy. National governments were addressing those demands in different ways, but it was worrying that the voice of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the traditional representatives of society, had been diminished within the United Nations and that international matters were increasingly being decided by governments alone, without input from social actors. That ran counter to processes at the national level. NGOs must therefore continue to be heard and to play a key role in discussions at the international level, particularly in 2015.

37. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia), panellist, said that she had participated in the Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995 and witnessed the emergence of a collective will to place social development at the heart of national and international policies. Above all, the Summit had made human beings the focus of development activities to eradicate poverty, promote full employment and repair the social fabric. The decision to refer to "people living in poverty" rather than the "poor" in United Nations documents had been a major achievement during the preparations for the Social Summit and had helped to humanize the issue of poverty.

38. The Copenhagen Declaration addressed the same issues that were being discussed in 2015: gender equality, full employment, universal access to education and health, and the need to mobilize new financial resources in order to create an enabling environment for development. Despite the impact of the Social Summit, the coherence needed to realize the global targets identified at the Summit had not been achieved in public policies at the national, regional and international levels. The ambitious proposed sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, which represented a new ethical and moral consensus, were part of the legacy of the Social Summit.

39. Five years after the Social Summit, Member States had adopted the Millennium Development Goals, with an important, but overdue, development road map. Her country had not begun implementing its national development plan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals until six years after their adoption. Despite the cross-cutting nature of the Goals, Member States had not been able to achieve them in full. Latin America and the Caribbean had made great efforts to reduce poverty, but, notably, levels of extreme poverty and inequality had increased in some countries in the region.

40. The post-2015 development agenda was an historic opportunity to transform the world. She agreed that regional organizations and the economic commissions should work with countries to implement national development plans. Their extensive knowledge of local issues would be very useful in implementing the post-2015 development agenda.

41. The international community was at a turning point: the ambitious platform that had first been outlined at the Social Summit would not be achieved unless there was a clear commitment by all stakeholders to provide adequate and predictable means of implementation, and unless the United Nations system was up to the task. An agreement to provide adequate and predictable means of implementation must therefore be reached at the Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa next month. Without it, the new development agenda would be nothing but rhetoric. The United

Nations system must also adapt by breaking down silos and following the Council's lead in reforming working methods.

42. Greater national coherence would also be needed in countries like hers, which had 26 development agencies, funds and programmes. Efforts must be more coordinated, particularly on a regional level, and a global follow-up and review mechanism must be created. Political support for the Statistical Commission, which was drawing up the sustainable development goal indicators, would also be fundamental. A few days earlier, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators had held its first meeting with the various regional institutions that would report on the progress made in implementing the new sustainable development goals. The Council should continue to oversee the process of selecting the indicators, as a method for quantifying implementation had been one of the lacunae in the previous development agenda. While meetings and summits had been very important for reviewing progress, a monitoring mechanism of some kind was needed to ensure universal accountability. The challenges facing the United Nations system and Member States in implementing the new agenda were considerable, but not insurmountable.

43. **Mr. Bissio** (Coordinator of the International Secretariat of Social Watch), panellist, said that he had attended the Social Summit and the preparations that had begun in 1993, and recalled that at the end of the Summit, Mr. Somavía had told the representatives of civil society organizations that the enormous public and private resources available must be used according to new human priorities. That was still true.

44. It was the job of civil society to demand more from governments, particularly on those issues where more could be done. Upon examining the outcome documents of the Social Summit, civil society organizations had been disappointed to find that only around 70 per cent of their demands had been met. However, they had consoled themselves with the fact that the Copenhagen Declaration called for the creation of a political environment that would enable the international community to achieve the many ambitious goals it had set for itself, including poverty eradication, gender equality and full employment. The Social Summit had also focused on redesigning structural adjustment programs in order to protect people living in poverty and the most vulnerable members of society from reductions in social expenditure, a key reform that civil society organizations had advocated. Unlike today, 1995 had been a time of great hope for humanity.

45. Every year since 1995, civil society organizations had reported on the progress made towards achieving those goals. Nonetheless, it was evident that some of the core values of the Social Summit had been lost and that the priorities established in the Millennium Development Goals had taken over the development agenda. That had been an unfortunate decision and might explain why many ordinary people perceived a disconnect between the United Nations and the aspirations of people and social movements in many countries. The method of assessing the success of the Millennium Development Goals had also probably discouraged some of the least developed countries and disincentivized high-performing countries. Those shortcomings should be borne in mind when deciding upon the monitoring mechanism for the new sustainable development goals.

46. Civil society organizations were very pleased to see that some of the key ideas endorsed at the Social Summit, such as universality, social protection floors and tackling inequality, figured in the post-2015 development agenda. Member States should now focus on the means of implementation to ensure that those ideas would become reality. To that end, specific indicators of inequality should be adopted to measure the impact of the new sustainable development goals, and Member States should make a clear financial commitment to institute and fund social protection floors, including cash transfers; benefits for children, the unemployed, women on maternity leave and persons with disabilities; pensions for older persons; and social security. Today, as in 1995, the resources were available.

47. After the 2008 financial crisis, trillions of dollars had been rapidly mobilized to save financial institutions, including some which had since been found guilty of crimes, and yet nothing had been done about banks that were too big to fail and too big to jail. While each country should address that problem through taxation and fiscal policy, in a globalized world, international collaboration was needed to enforce fair taxation within national borders without. Proposals like the Tobin tax, which could help to regulate financial markets and to generate resources,

should be adopted. The analysis contained in the 2014 Social Watch report, entitled "Means and Ends", might also be helpful, as it examined the goals for humanity, the means available to achieve them and the inequalities that stood in the way.

48. The ambition and breadth of the sustainable development goals was inspiring, but Member States must learn lessons from the Social Summit and the Millennium Development Goals with regard to implementation, the integration of the three pillars of development and follow-up and review mechanisms. There would be difficulties to overcome, but Member States must report on their progress in implementing the post-2015 development agenda, even on a voluntary basis, and be assessed as part of a system of peer review. Those reports must be public so that civil society could participate in and comment on the review. Such a mechanism would mobilize the necessary political will to make the financial resources available to implement the agenda. No country in the world could claim to be sustainably developed. While modern-day problems and capacities might be different from those of 1995, the responsibilities and challenges were still common to all Member States.

Interactive discussion

49. **Ms. Perceval** (Argentina) said that the commemoration of the Copenhagen Summit was particularly timely, coinciding as it did with the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the Paris Climate Change Conference. She had attended the Social Summit as an NGO representative. Rather than setting out targeted policies, the message of the Summit had been that no one should be left behind. The Social Summit was proof of what could be achieved. Member States were currently working hard to reach agreements that would meet the challenges facing the world today. The goals that would be adopted were not merely lofty ideals; they were imperative for the survival of civilization, humanity and the planet. Although it had been said many times, she wished to repeat a very serious warning: the future of the planet was at risk and it was unjustifiable that so many people were still living in poverty.

50. The outcome of the Addis Ababa Conference would be particularly significant. Financing for development commitments should be set out in concrete agreements in order to increase the resources available for development. Official development assistance (ODA) was an important element of financing for development; developed countries should honour their commitment to contribute 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to ODA. Steps should also be taken to increase, encourage and develop South-South and triangular cooperation, not with the aim of replacing North-South cooperation, but rather to encourage greater balance among States, civil society, the market and individuals. Such cooperation would also complement Member States' equal but differentiated responsibilities.

51. While the Millennium Development Goals had been a laudable wish list, they had lacked a systematic approach and dedicated resources for implementation. A monitoring mechanism would have helped to identify problems and promote transparency and accountability, as well as the genuine participation of the State, the market and civil society in the process. Recent advances in information and communications technology would make a reporting mechanism for the new sustainable development goals much more feasible. Perhaps the panellists could cite other aspects of sustainable development that had been overlooked by the Millennium Development Goals.

52. With regard to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, regional development banks and other regional stakeholders, such as the economic commissions, should be the primary linkages and coordinators between the global agenda and local needs. The international financial system must also be re-examined and the global financial architecture reformed in order to create a more favourable global environment for development. It was not a question of overthrowing capitalism, but of giving capitalism a human face and putting the multilateral financial system at the service of development. Moreover, the international financial system should reflect the relative weight of the economies of developing countries and take that into account when considering which macroeconomic policies to impose. Fair, equitable and transparent mechanisms should be adopted for restructuring sovereign debt, an issue that affected even developed countries.

53. Capital flight, tax evasion and other fiscal matters must also be tackled at the international level if sustainable development was to be achieved. Steps

should therefore be taken to eliminate bank secrecy and tax havens, and to regulate the practices of hedge funds. President Frei had referred to the effect of trading in commodities on development, the reduction in poverty and the narrowing of inequalities in Latin America. However, according to a recent report by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the reduction in poverty and improvements in inequality in the region, those achievements were the result of comprehensive policies, from social security floors to free and universally accessible, quality education and health care, and steps to control speculative capital flows, which had hindered development activities in developing and least developed countries.

54. Alternatives should also be found to credit risk assessments for developing countries and infrastructure projects, which were often funded by national governments or short-term development assistance. Many roads in the developing world had been paved with good intentions; it was time for the global system to step up and finance the ideals that it advocated. It was not enough to talk about a better, fairer and more equitable world for everyone; Member States should seize opportunities to examine the taboos and difficulties facing the world today.

55. **Mr. Köhler** (Observer for the European Union) said that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action represented a unique consensus on key social development objectives, highlighting the need for a holistic approach to achieve those objectives. The twentieth anniversary of the Social Summit coincided with a decisive moment for the United Nations. Despite recent progress, the world and its inhabitants still faced formidable challenges. In the light of persistent poverty, unemployment, poor working conditions and human rights abuses around the world, the Social Summit and its outcome documents were undoubtedly still relevant and valid. The post-2015 development agenda presented an opportunity to address those challenges. His delegation was committed to working tirelessly for its implementation and for the attainment of future development goals and targets.

56. In order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, a new global partnership was needed to transform and strengthen international cooperation, and achieve social development in the spirit of the Copenhagen Declaration. As the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour had explained during the integration segment of the Economic and Social Council in March 2015, full and productive employment and decent work were vital to addressing inequality and social exclusion and, as such, should be key components for the implementation of the new post-2015 development agenda.

57. **Ms. Bodenmann** (Switzerland) noted that progress made since 1995 had been precarious. Despite growth and job creation, made possible by globalization and technological advances, growth had often been accompanied by inequalities within and between countries. Unemployment remained a universal phenomenon while access to decent jobs was in no way universal. The full implementation of the objectives adopted in Copenhagen and subsequently at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations was strategically important.

58. Economic growth, while a necessary condition, was not in itself sufficient to create sustainable development; yet sustainable development, with its social, economic and environmental dimensions, was essential to reducing global poverty. As the Secretary-General had pointed out in his report on rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world (E/CN.5/2015/3), poverty was found everywhere, even in industrialized countries, where it had become more noticeable in recent years among particular segments of the population, such as women, young people and single-parent families. Migrants and minorities were also particularly vulnerable.

59. Employment was a source of stability and a key factor in eliminating poverty. Integration into the labour market, under decent conditions, was an important aspect of economic empowerment. Her Government therefore favoured a vocational education and training system, attuned to the needs of the economy, to integrate people into the labour force. It had also implemented a macroeconomic framework and policies that were conducive to creating gainful employment and to achieving full employment, and a legal framework that guaranteed decent working conditions and helped employment to become a driver of development and economic empowerment.

60. The post-2015 development agenda offered a unique opportunity to merge the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development

and thus ensure a holistic approach, both nationally and internationally. Every effort must be made to ensure that all regions of the world could meet those objectives.

61. **Mr. Pinheiro** (Observer for the International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that it had been at the Social Summit that Member States had first pledged to eradicate poverty and defined concepts such as rights at work, full and productive employment and social protection, ideas that would form the basis for the ILO Decent Work Agenda. The Decent Work Agenda, which had been the brainchild of Mr. Somavía, was being implemented through four strategic objectives: promoting jobs; guaranteeing rights at work; extending social protection; and promoting social dialogue. Mr. Somavía had also been instrumental in shaping many concrete development initiatives, including the focus on the social dimension of globalization, social protection floors, the Global Jobs Pact and the Call for Action on Youth Employment.

62. He asked Mr. Donoghue whether, given the importance of the Social Summit in shaping the sustainable development agenda, Member States would consider including a reference to the Social Summit in the post-2015 declaration. Lastly, in a hypothetical situation where Mr. Somavía could include one additional paragraph in the Copenhagen Declaration, what would that paragraph be?

63. **Mr. Donoghue** (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations) said that it would be reasonable to include a reference to the Social Summit in the post-2015 declaration. He would discuss it with his colleagues, but it would be up to Member States to consider and decide upon the proposal, bearing in mind that the declaration should not be overly long.

64. **Mr. Somavía** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation) said that he wished he had already developed the concept of decent work when the Social Summit outcome documents were being drafted. That would have summed up neatly everything that was being said at the time about employment, rights at work and the ratification of ILO conventions.

65. **Mr. Yao** Shaojun (China) said that the Social Summit had been a very important international event and that the outcome documents were still highly relevant. His delegation attached importance to, and had been very active in implementing, the outcome of the Social Summit, including social sector reforms. His Government had sought to eradicate poverty in China by increasing and extending social protections, creating employment and education opportunities for young people and introducing health sector reforms. The result had been a more equitable society, allowing citizens to enjoy the fruits of economic growth and promoting greater social harmony.

66. While some had called for social development to be highlighted in the post-2015 development agenda, his delegation was of the view that the three pillars of sustainable development must be given equal attention. The Social Summit outcome documents could form the basis for the new social development goals, taking into account recent developments in that area. Core elements of social development, such as poverty eradication, employment and social harmony and inclusion, should be fully reflected and emphasized in the post-2015 development agenda.

67. While the new agenda would seek to integrate the three development pillars, in practice, the different United Nations agencies and national governments had specific mandates that they would have to follow. He therefore wished to know how that would affect the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the integration of the three pillars in practice, particularly with regard to weighing social and environmental considerations against economic ones.

68. Lastly, he concurred that the State, society, markets and individuals should have a balanced relationship and that attention should be paid to the concerns of NGOs. However, civil society organizations from developing countries were often overlooked. What could be done to ensure that their voices were heard?

69. **Mr. Somavía** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation) said that, without integration, economic policy would be left to the markets. Experience since the Social Summit had shown that if economic policy was decided by the financial sector, it generally produced unfair and unbalanced globalization and led to greater inequality. The Social Summit had marked the first confrontation between the social ideals of the United Nations and neoliberal economic thinking. Yet, despite calls for the reform of structural adjustment programmes and the introduction of social considerations into economic policy, leaders at the Social Summit had failed to

recognize the need to integrate the three pillars of development and to understand the linkages between them. He was therefore concerned that if Member States made that mistake again with the post-2015 development agenda, history would repeat itself: the economy would take care of itself and social and environmental considerations would take a back seat.

70. During the 1990s, NGOs representing developed and developing countries had contributed greatly to debates within the United Nations system; their participation in the momentous agreements to be adopted in 2015 should therefore be encouraged. Channels of communication must be opened. Without NGO input, problems could be overlooked or underestimated. Today, communities and citizens around the world were organizing themselves and wanted to create a more participatory political process. People were more empowered and were demanding solutions to global problems. It was clear that when there was greater transparency around policy decisions, the general public was happier with the outcomes of those policies. If people felt that public policy was unbalanced, they were more likely to mobilize against it.

71. **Mr. Bissio** (Coordinator of the International Secretariat of Social Watch) said that he shared the concerns expressed by the representative of China concerning the input of civil society organizations from developing countries in the debate on development. NGOs based in the global South did not have the same influence, access to money or freedom to travel as those in the global North. While he commended United Nations efforts to compensate for those inequalities, the problem of resources must be addressed.

72. Those asymmetries mirrored the growing inequalities within and between countries today. The problems that were reported daily from around the world were directly related to those inequalities — from the migrant deaths in the Mediterranean to the social unrest and conflicts in many countries. Member States and their citizens wanted to be treated fairly and to have equal opportunities. He therefore welcomed the commitment contained in the sustainable development goals to tackle inequality. Indicators, implementation programmes and follow-up and review mechanisms should also specifically address inequality in order to achieve the broader integration of the three pillars of development.

73. **Mr. Donoghue** (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations) said that the concepts that had originated at the Social Summit were being incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda. The insights that the current discussion had provided into the political and social background and context of the Social Summit had been very pertinent. He agreed that the outcome of the Addis Ababa Conference in July would be instrumental to the implementation of the new agenda, and that the United Nations must adapt in response to the new goals and targets.

74. To ensure the attainment of the sustainable development goals, a follow-up mechanism must be put in place and accountability ensured at all levels. Implementation would have to move to centre stage and consideration must be given to the practical integration of the three pillars.

75. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia) said that it was important to identify deliverable goals, particularly with regard to development financing. The identification of deliverable targets had been behind the success of the Copenhagen Summit and the Monterrey Consensus, where those targets had been seen as instruments for promoting social equality and long-term economic growth. Attainment of the 0.7 per cent ODA target would certainly go some way towards achieving the dreams set out in the post-2015 development agenda.

76. Member States had strayed from the road to development in the years since the Social Summit; for many reasons, a review mechanism must therefore be put in place to ensure that they did not lose their way again. The United Nations system must understand and be ready to meet the risks and challenges that the world faced.

77. **Mr. Somavía** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation) urged countries to continue to be ambitious. There would always be naysayers who would claim that the post-2015 development agenda was too complex and too difficult to achieve. However, the United Nations could make a major contribution to the world by taking the lead. In a world where leadership was lacking, there was great potential within the United Nations system. Despite the complexity and difficulties, the political will was there and Member States had been able to produce, collectively, a comprehensive vision of the future and examine the problems at the heart of society.

78. Member States must continue to be ambitious, as once the new goals were adopted, the challenge would be even greater. Obstacles would emerge; there would be those who would try to divert them from their path. That had been the case in the 1990s: the Social Summit had ended with a structural vision for development, but the Millennium Development Goals had followed a different development plan. It was perfectly possible that that scenario would play out again if Member States did not aim high. It would be difficult. The global economy was being manipulated by the financial system, when it should be at the heart of development. The world's enormous financial resources should be invested in creating employment opportunities and not poured into financial speculation. As soon as the agenda was adopted, Member States would come up against many vested interests that wanted the status quo to continue; they must therefore be determined and unafraid to tell the truth. Significant progress had already been achieved; Members States should continue on that path.

79. As for the suggestion put forward by the ILO representative, it was odd that the zero draft of the post-2015 development agenda did not include a reference to the Social Summit, particularly in the light of the discussion at the current meeting. He urged Member States to consider including a reference to the Social Summit, given the key role it had played in defining and shaping sustainable development, and to the other summits that had led to the post-2015 development agenda. The agenda would be less coherent without those references.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.